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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,191	07/25/2003	Gary H. Newman	101120-0003	2692
24267	7590	09/22/2006	EXAMINER	
CESARI AND MCKENNA, LLP 88 BLACK FALCON AVENUE BOSTON, MA 02210				PHAM, MICHAEL
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2167	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/627,191	NEWMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael D. Pham	2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

1. Claims 1 - 19 have been examined.
2. Claims 1 - 19 are pending.
3. Claims 1 - 19 are rejected as detailed below.

Priority

Applicant claims domestic priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/460,992, which was filed on Apr. 7, 2003. Therefore application has been examined with an effective filing date of April 7, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

No information disclosure statement filed.

Rule 105 Request for Information

1. *Applicant's response is appreciated for the rule 105 request, and for indicating that the Belmanage System that incorporates the invention was not on sale or offered for sale more than one year before filing date of the provisional application from which the application for patent claims priority to. However it appears that the examiner has yet to receive the Users Manual for the Belmanage System that incorporates the invention, namely, version 6, and the white papers that discuss particular operations of the system and were available before the priority date as applicants have stated that they have supplied.*

2. In response to this requirement, please provide the title, citation and copy of each publication that is a source used for the description of the prior art in the disclosure. For each publication, please provide a concise explanation of that publication's contribution to the description of the prior art. In response to this requirement, please provide the names of any products or services that have incorporated the claimed subject matter.
3. In responding to those requirements that require copies of documents, where the document is a bound text or a single article over 50 pages, the requirement may be met by providing copies of those pages that provide the particular subject matter indicated in the requirement, or where such subject matter is not indicated, the subject matter found in applicant's disclosure.
4. The fee and certification requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 are waived for those documents submitted in reply to this requirement. This waiver extends only to those documents within the scope of this requirement under 37 CFR 1.105 that are included in the applicant's first complete communication responding to this requirement. Any supplemental replies subsequent to the first communication responding to this requirement and any information disclosures beyond the scope of this requirement under 37 CFR 1.105 are subject to the fee and certification requirements of 37 CFR 1.97.

5. The applicant is reminded that the reply to this requirement must be made with candor and good faith under 37 CFR 1.56. Where the applicant does not have or cannot readily obtain an item of required information, a statement that the item is unknown or cannot be readily obtained may be accepted as a complete reply to the requirement for that item.

6. This requirement is an attachment of the enclosed Office action. A complete reply to the enclosed Office action must include a complete reply to this requirement. The time period for reply to this requirement coincides with the time period for reply to the enclosed Office action.

Drawings

1. The drawings objections because of minor informality for no label for figure 4 where 400, is withdrawn.

Specification

1. Specification objected to for minor informality for the reciting 306 for figure 3, but not disclosing the purpose of 306 is withdrawn.

2. It is noted that applicant's have amended a typographical error deleting version 6 and replacing it with version 5.1.

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is

required: New claims 10 and 11 recite predetermined positions. There does not appear to be such explanation within the specifications.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Prior office action rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph are respectfully withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 12-13 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0022952 by Zager et. al. (hereafter Zager).

Zager discloses:

Claim 12:

A method for managing a database that contains computer profile data for a plurality of computers, the method including the steps of

grouping the plurality of computers in groups that are nodes of a multiple node tree in accordance with user-specified primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that are values of computer profile data of interest [0075, 0076, 0082, 0152, The

model constitutes an example of the type of mathematical entity known as a directed graph, in which managed objects are the nodes of the graph and the relationships are edges. Administrator has the ability to define additional managed objects, which correspond to arbitrary groupings of similar objects in the model. Filters are provided to determine what information in the model is to be made available to what users of the system, and a display is used to make that information available in an easy to use them. All MO's have at least one relation with at least one other MO, which relations can be thought of as a "tree-like" graph whose nodes are the MO's and whose edges are the publisher-subscriber relations among those MO's. [0274] receipt from administrator a list of networks, subnets, subnet ranges, and host ranges or hosts.];

manipulating the database data to produce summaries of attributes of the computers in a given group and in the groups in the subtree that has the given group as its root[0082, A report engine is also provided to generate reports as requested by the system administrator.].

Claim 13:

The method of claim 12 wherein the step of grouping further includes regrouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with different user-specified primary and secondary grouping criteria [[0274] receipt from administrator a list of networks, subnets, subnet ranges, and host ranges or hosts.].

Claim 15:

The method of claim 14 wherein the further step of grouping includes regrouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected structures within the underlying organization of users [Zager, [0274] subnet ranges and host ranges].

Claim 16:

The method of claim 12 wherein the step of grouping further includes grouping computers in accordance with user specified primary and secondary criteria that utilize ranges of values for computer profile data of interest [Zager, [0274] subnet ranges and host ranges].

Claim 17:

The method of claim 16 wherein the step of grouping further includes regrouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with different user-specified ranges of values [Zager, [0274] subnet ranges and host ranges].

Claim 18:

The method of claim 16 wherein the respective ranges of values correspond to a selected structure within the underlying organization of users [Zager, [0274] subnet ranges and host ranges].

Claim 19:

The method of claim 18 wherein the further step of grouping includes regrouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to other selected structures within the underlying organization of users [Zager, [0274] subnet ranges and host ranges].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0022952 by Zager et. al. (hereafter Zager) further in view of U.S. Patent 6295527 by McCormack et. al. (hereafter McCormack).

Claim 1:

A method of managing a computer information database that contains computer profile data for computers, the method including the steps of:

Zager discloses:

A. determining a multiple node tree structure of groups for the computers based on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria [0075, 0076, 0082, 0152, The

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model constitutes an example of the type of mathematical entity known as a directed graph, in which managed objects are the nodes of the graph and the relationships are edges. Administrator has the ability to define additional managed objects, which correspond to arbitrary groupings of similar objects in the model. Filters are provided to determine what information in the model is to be made available to what users of the system, and a display is used to make that information available in an easy to use them. All MO's have at least one relation with at least one other MO, which relations can be thought of as a "tree-like" graph whose nodes are the MO's and whose edges are the publisher-subscriber relations among those MO's.];

C. receiving for inclusion in the database computer profile data from a plurality of computers [0071, There are also a model server and an operational database that support the model. The model disclosed herein could, within the scope of the invention, be used with another arrangement for gathering the required information from the external system and delivering it, and conversely, the data-gathering infrastructure can be used in many applications other than providing information to a model of a complex computer network that is being managed];

E. manipulating the data from the database to produce reports that summarize the attributes of the computers in the groups, with each report for a given group including therein the attributes of the computers in the groups that are on a sub-tree with the given group as its root [0082, A report engine is also provided to generate reports as requested by the system administrator.].

Zager does not explicitly disclose

B. including in a database mapping table fields for the primary grouping criteria and the secondary groupings criteria, and including in those fields in respective table records values corresponding to computer profile data of interest that are utilized in primary grouping and the secondary grouping criteria, the table further including in the respective records information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;

D. for the profile data from a given computer extracting data that corresponds to the profile data of interest for the primary groupings and the secondary groupings, querying the table to determine if the extracted data correspond to the values that are included in the primary grouping and secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table, and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group named in the record,

if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low values, assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned,

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned

alone.

On the other hand, the combination of Zager and McCormack discloses the missing limitations.

McCormack discloses a group filter criteria table col. 8 lines 29-51. The group filter criteria table containing a group filter ID, Filter Metadata ID, Group ID, Filter Type, and Filter Value. Thus,

B. including in a database mapping table [McCormack, col. 8 lines 29-51, group filter criteria table] fields for the primary grouping criteria and the secondary groupings criteria [McCormack, col. 8 lines 29-51, Group Filter ID, Filter Metadata ID, Filter Type, or Filter Value], and including in those fields in respective table records values corresponding to computer profile data of interest that are utilized in primary grouping and the secondary grouping criteria, the table further including in the respective records information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned [McCormack, col. 8 lines 29-51, Group ID] appears to be disclosed.

McCormack further discloses storing information about each group of devices that is defined about a filter (there must exist some form of extraction of device information in order to even obtain the information) col. 11 lines 2-8. A query can be constructed based upon the filters that are selected. If records are found according to filter, group Ids are assigned [Col. 13 lines 60-61]. The query is applied to a database of network device information. Based upon results of the query a view of a group or collection of selected network devices is constructed and presented to the user.

D. for the profile data from a given computer

extracting data that corresponds to the profile data of interest for the primary groupings and the secondary groupings [McCormack, Col. 11 lines 2-8], querying the table to determine if the extracted data correspond to the values that are included in the primary grouping and secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table [McCormack, col. 13 lines 55-67], and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group named in the record [McCormack, query results in assigning computers to groups according to the filtered criteria. Col. 5 lines 1-19],

if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low values, assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned.

All inventions are related in that they both group devices together. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Zager to have included

B. including in a database mapping table fields for the primary grouping criteria and the secondary groupings criteria, and including in those fields in respective table

records values corresponding to computer profile data of interest that are utilized in primary grouping and the secondary grouping criteria, the table further including in the respective records information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;

D. for the profile data from a given computer

extracting data that corresponds to the profile data of interest for the primary groupings and the secondary groupings,

querying the table to determine if the extracted data correspond to the values that are included in the primary grouping and secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table, and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group named in the record,

if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low values, assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned

Based on disclosure of McCormack. A skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so in order to store information in order to filter objects into correct groups. Thus providing to Zager an improved way of organizing devices into groups for display onto the model.

Claim 2:

Zager in combination of McCormack discloses **wherein one or more table records includes secondary grouping values set to NULL** [McCormack, Null filter values are possible. Col. 10 line 41].

Claim 3:

Zager in combination of McCormack discloses **wherein the values associated with the primary grouping criteria are ranges and the step of determining if the extracted data correspond to the values further includes determining if the corresponding extracted data of interest falls within one of the primary grouping ranges** [Zager, [0263], discloses criteria could be a range of IP addresses. [0265], discloses that the model will know all IP subnets that meet the administrator's breadth criteria, and within those criteria all IP devices and their capabilities].

Claim 4:

Zager in combination of McCormack discloses **wherein the values associated with the secondary grouping criteria are ranges and the step of determining if the extracted data correspond to the values further includes determining if the corresponding extracted data of interest falls within one of the secondary grouping ranges** [Zager, [0274] subnet ranges and host ranges. (e.g. host ranges may be secondary)], and including in the fields in respective table records high and low values for the secondary grouping computer profile data of interest

[Zager, [0274] subnet ranges and host ranges. (e.g. host ranges may be secondary).].

Claim 5:

Zager in combination of McCormack discloses **wherein the step of querying further includes determining if the extracted data corresponds to the primary grouping criteria and a secondary low value of NULL or the empty string** [McCormack, Null filter values are possible. Col. 10 line 41].

Claim 6:

Zager in combination of McCormack discloses **wherein the primary and secondary grouping criteria are user-specified**[Zager, [0274] receipt from administrator a list of networks, subnets, subnet ranges, and host ranges or hosts.].

Claim 7:

A method of managing a computer information database that contains computer profile data for computers, the method including the steps of:

Zager discloses

A. determining a multiple node tree structure of groups for the computers based on primary grouping criteria [0075, 0076, 0082, 0152, The model constitutes an example of the type of mathematical entity known as a directed graph, in which managed objects are the nodes of the graph and the relationships are edges. Administrator has the ability to define additional

managed objects, which correspond to arbitrary groupings of similar objects in the model.

Filters are provided to determine what information in the model is to be made available to what users of the system, and a display is used to make that information available in an easy to use them. All MO's have at least one relation with at least one other MO, which relations can be thought of as a "tree-like" graph whose nodes are the MO's and whose edges are the publisher-subscriber relations among those MO's.]

C. receiving for inclusion in the database computer profile data from a plurality of computers[0071, There are also a model server and an operational database that support the model. The model disclosed herein could, within the scope of the invention, be used with another arrangement for gathering the required information from the external system and delivering it, and conversely, the data-gathering infrastructure can be used in many applications other than providing information to a model of a complex computer network that is being managed];

E. manipulating the data from the data base to produce reports that summarize the attributes of the computers in the groups, with the report for a given group including therein the attributes of the computers in the groups that are on a sub-tree with the given group as its root[0082, A report engine is also provided to generate reports as requested by the system administrator.].

However, Zager does not explicitly disclose

B. including in a database mapping table fields for the primary grouping criteria that correspond to a range of values for computer profile data of interest that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria used to assign the computers to groups for profile data reporting, and including in those fields in respective table records high and low values for the computer profile data of interest, the table further including in the records information that identifies the groups to which computers that satisfy the primary grouping criteria are assigned ;

D. for the profile data from a given computer extracting data that correspond to the primary grouping profile data of interest,

querying the table to determine if the extracted data fall within the ranges of values that are included in the primary grouping fields in any of the table records, and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group named in the record, or

if the query results in multiple table records assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned.

alone.

On the other hand, the combination of Zager and McCormack discloses the missing limitations.

McCormack discloses a group filter criteria table col. 8 lines 29-51. Zager discloses a range of ip addresses in order to assign computers to groups that correspond to nodes of a tree like model.

The combination of Zager and McCormack discloses:

B. including in a database mapping table fields [McCormack, col. 8 lines 29-51, group filter criteria table] for the primary grouping criteria that correspond to a range of values for computer profile data of interest that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria used to assign the computers to groups for profile data reporting [Zager, [0263], discloses criteria could be a range of IP addresses. [0265], discloses that the model will know all IP subnets that meet the administrator's breadth criteria, and within those criteria all IP devices and their capabilities], and including in those fields in respective table records high and low values for the computer profile data of interest, the table further including in the records information that identifies the groups to which computers that satisfy the primary grouping criteria are assigned [McCormack, col. 8 lines 29-51, Group ID];

D. for the profile data from a given computer extracting data that correspond to the primary grouping profile data of interest [Zager, 00243, dynamic agents], querying the table to determine if the extracted data fall within the ranges of values [[Zager, [0263], discloses criteria could be a range of IP addresses. [0265], discloses that the model will know all IP subnets that meet the administrator's breadth criteria, and within those criteria all IP devices and their capabilities]] that are included in the primary grouping fields in any of the table records [McCormack, A query can be constructed based upon the filters that

are selected. If records are found according to filter, group Ids are assigned [Col. 13 lines 60-61]], and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group named in the record [McCormack, query results in assigning computers to groups according to the filtered criteria. Col. 5 lines 1-19], or

if the query results in multiple table records assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned.

All inventions are related in that they both group devices together. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Zager to have included

B. including in a database mapping table fields for the primary grouping criteria that correspond to a range of values for computer profile data of interest that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria used to assign the computers to groups for profile data reporting, and including in those fields in respective table records high and low values for the computer profile data of interest, the table further including in the records information that identifies the groups to which computers that satisfy the primary grouping criteria are assigned ;

D. for the profile data from a given computer extracting data that correspond to the primary grouping profile data of interest,

querying the table to determine if the extracted data fall within the ranges of values that are included in the primary grouping fields in any of the table records, and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group named in the record, or

if the query results in multiple table records assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned.

Based on disclosure of McCormack. A skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so in order to store information in order to filter objects into correct groups. Thus providing to Zager an improved way of organizing devices into groups for display onto the model.

Claim 8:

Zager in combination of McCormack discloses

including in the table[McCormack, col. 8 lines 29-51, group filter criteria table] fields that correspond to a range of values for computer profile data of interest that are utilized in secondary grouping criteria used to assign include the computers to groups for profile data reporting [Zager, [0274] subnet ranges and host ranges. (e.g. host ranges may be secondary)], and including in the fields in respective table records high and low values for the

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secondary grouping computer profile data of interest [Zager, [0274] subnet ranges and host ranges. (e.g. host ranges may be secondary).], and

for the profile data from a given computer

further extracting data that correspond to the secondary grouping profile data of interest[Zager, 00243, dynamic agents],

further querying the table to determine if the further extracted data fall within the secondary grouping criteria ranges included in the table records[McCormack, A query can be constructed based upon the filters that are selected. If records are found according to filter, group Ids are assigned, Col. 13 lines 60-61]], and

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group named in the record[McCormack, query results in assigning computers to groups according to the filtered criteria. Col. 5 lines 1-19],

if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low values, assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned,

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group, or

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group named in the record that is in a predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned.

Claim 9:

Zager in combination of McCormack discloses wherein the step of querying further includes

determining if the extracted data corresponds to the primary grouping criteria and a secondary low value of NULL or the empty string [McCormack, Null filter values are possible. Col. 10 line 41].

Claim 10:

Zager in combination of McCormack discloses **wherein the predetermined position in the order of the records with secondary low values is the first record found and the predetermined position in the order of records with no secondary low values is the last record found** [McCormack, col. 9 lines 50-60, col. 11 lines 18-29, figure 3 element 310.

Accordingly, views are set up in positions where no filtered values are ordered last, note that the first record (row having cisco) contains all filtered values. After rows].

Claim 11:

Zager in combination of McCormack discloses **wherein the predetermined position in the order of the records with secondary low values is the first record found and the predetermined position in the order of records with no secondary low values is the last record found** [McCormack, col. 9 lines 50-60, col. 11 lines 18-29, figure 3 element 310.

Accordingly, views are set up in positions where no filtered values are ordered last, note that the first record (row having cisco) contains all filtered values. After rows].

Claims 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0022952 by Zager et. al. (hereafter Zager) further in view of U.S. Patent 6947989 by Gullotta et. al. (hereafter Gullotta).

Claim 14:

Zager discloses the method of claim 12 however does not explicitly disclose wherein the step of grouping further includes grouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected physical locations of users

On the other hand, the combination of Zager and Gullotta discloses wherein the step of grouping further includes grouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected physical locations of users. Gullota [col. 9 lines 19-37]discloses policies set for organizations of outside salesperson. Setting policies for Outside salespersons accesses to database systems. Hence, a physical location of users is disclosed by Gullotta.

All systems are directed towards grouping information. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Zager to have included the steps of **wherein the step of grouping further includes grouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected physical locations of users** based on the disclosure of Gullotta. A skilled artisan would have been

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motivated to do so in order to manage inventory and keep track of devices such as computers, and organizational information.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicants disclosure.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael D. Pham whose telephone number is (571)272-3924. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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